

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 EC BRU 02150 101334Z

46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SWF-02 AID-20

CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 CIEP-02 SP-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01

SAM-01 OMB-01 AF-10 NIC-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /193 W

----- 029962

R 101214Z APR 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6702

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 2150

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, EFIN, ETRD, ENRG, SY, EEC

SUBJ: VISIT TO DAMASCUS BY EC COMMISSIONER CHEYSSON,
MARCH 26-27

REF: EC BRUSSELS 1776

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 EC BRU 02150 101334Z

1. SUMMARY: ANTICIPATING A VISIT ONLY FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS, EC COMMISSIONER CHEYSSON FOUND HE HAD TO SPEND HIS TWO-DAY VISIT TO SYRIA (MARCH 26-27) FENDING OFF REQUESTS FOR IMMEDIATE NEGOTIATIONS ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION. THE FOLLOWING REPORT REFLECTS THE COMMENTS OF TWO COMMISSION OFFICIALS WHO ACCOMPANIED HIM.

END SUMMARY.

2. THE EC HAS LONG THOUGHT OF SYRIA IN THE CONTEXT OF ITS GLOBAL MEDITERRANEAN POLICY, BUT UNTIL THIS YEAR THE SYRIANS HAVE SHOWN LITTLE INTEREST. RECENTLY, AFTER SOME PRELIMINARY INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS, THE SYRIANS INVITED CHEYSSON TO VISIT SYRIA.

3. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, CHEYSSON, TO HIS SURPRISE, WAS GREETED AT THE AIRPORT IN DAMASCUS BY THE STATEMENT THAT THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT LOOKED FORWARD TO NEGOTIATING THREE AGREEMENTS WITH THE COMMUNITY DURING THE TWO-DAY VISIT* OUR SOURCES SAID THAT CHEYSSON HAD TO SPEND THE NEXT TWO DAYS EXPLAINING TO THE SYRIANS THE INFORMAL, THOUGH OFFICIAL, NATURE OF HIS VISIT AND HIS INABILITY TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT AUTHORITY FROM THE EC COUNCIL. HIS HOSTS WERE INTERESTED IN THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE COMMUNITY'S MEDITERRANEAN POLICY AND, PARTICULARLY, THE STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MAGHREB COUNTRIES. WE WERE TOLD THAT CHEYSSON LIMITED HIS DISCUSSION TO THE MEDITERRANEAN POLICY OF THE COMMUNITY AND THAT NEITHER THE THE ISRAELI-SYRIAN CONFLICT NOR THE EC-ARAB DIALOGUE WAS DISCUSSED.

4. THE SYRIANS INSISTED THAT CHEYSSON SIGN A DOCUMENT IN WHICH, ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION, CHEYSSON EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING FOR SYRIA'S DESIRE TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY ON 1) PREFERENTIAL ACCESS TO COMMUNITY MARKETS; 2) TECHNICAL, SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION; AND 3) FINANCIAL COOPERATION. (WITH REGARD TO THE LATTER, OUR SOURCES SAID THE SYRIANS PRESENTED THE COMMISSION WITH A LONG LIST OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, SUGGESTING THAT THE EC TAKE ITS PICK.) OUR SOURCES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 EC BRU 02150 101334Z

SHOWED THE REPORTING OFFICER THE DOCUMENT. THEY SAID THAT SINCE CHEYSSON HAD NO MANDATE TO NEGOTIATE, THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE PAPER IS UNCLEAR, BUT CHEYSSON FELT HE COULD SIGN IT SINCE IT MERELY EMBODIED THE OUTLINE OF EXISTING EC MEDITERRANEAN POLICY.

5. OUR SOURCES BELIEVED THAT A PRINCIPAL REASON FOR SYRIA'S SUDDEN INTEREST IN TIES WITH THE EC IS THAT SYRIA

IS LOOKING FOR AN ALTERNATIVE TO ITS PRESENT HEAVY DEPENDENCE UPON THE SOVIET UNION.

6. THE NEXT STEP IN COMMUNITY RELATIONS WITH SYRIA IS LIKELY TO BE A COMMISSION PROPOSAL TO THE COUNCIL TO OPEN FORMAL EXPLORATORY TALKS. THE TIMING OF THIS STEP IS NOT YET CLEAR BUT ONE OF OUR SOURCES THOUGHT THAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD PROBABLY WANT TO MOVE DISCUSSIONS FORWARD WITH SYRIA AND JORDAN AT ABOUT THE SAME PACE, POSSIBLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE PRESENT AGREEMENTS WITH EGYPT AND LEBANON, WITH A VIEW TOWARD EVENTUAL HARMONIZATION OF CONCESSIONS BETWEEN THE MAGHREB AND THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ARAB COUNTRIES. MYERSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, RAW MATERIALS, PETROLEUM, EXPORTS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, PRICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ECBRU02150
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740082-0664
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740453/aaaabvoe.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: EC BRUSSELS 1776
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT TO DAMASCUS BY EC COMMISSIONER CHEYSSON, MARCH 26-27
TAGS: PFOR, PINR, EFIN, ETRD, ENRG, SY, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005